Depot Town Rag

Volume 18, Number 9 "All the news in one block in one month."

September 1995

100% FREE Rag Content

- Classy cars
- ***New shops***
- Auctioneer
- *Law suit threatened*
- **Old business leaving**
- After the Yesterfesters

and other strictly local stuff. . . .

A Publication of the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. P.O. Box 970-235, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-0804

Way ahead of time!

This monthly issue of *The Rag* is published earlier than usual in order to meet the demand of the final day of the August Heritage Festival.

Fifty dollar fine for littering!

Fall Fair celebrates country/city connections

First whole weekend in October sees the twice-a-week Farmers' Market spill over into the rest of the block as corn shocks appear around sidewalk lamp posts and many city slickers come to work in their denim coveralls.

Kids who fall into the country cousin/city cousin category gather in the plaza to decorate scarecrows and guys who live between here and EMU's campus show up to fiddle in a bluegrass/country style. It's a melding of cultures that nobody would have predicted down here a generation ago. We've come a long way from the Smith Furniture parking lot.

The annual Fall Fair centering on the Farmers' Market Freighthouse celebrates the height of the fall harvest with authentic displays, first-rate products, fun activities for familes, and boundless enthusiasm for good, healthy food.

After the Yesterfesters . . .

Once the tents are taken down and the streets cleaned up again, the 1995 Heritage Festival is over and neighborhood committees begin to meet to plan the 1996 event. Some will decry the blatant historical hype and hucksterism this huge event has begun to draw, others will streamline their operation to make more profit from the next event's extragant commercial opportunity.

Down in Depot Town, folks will have a chance to mull over sidewalkers' comments on their building's new paint job, restock their items for the winter's Victorian Holiday, and get their sights set on fall events around the Farmers' Market and Freighthouse. Having a big neighborhood party is a way of life down in Ypsilanti's old railroad district and the Heritage Fest is just one of them - albiet the biggest and most blustery event ever seen down here.

The local press gave this year's Festival superb coverage and it seemed Depot Town's historic façades showed up in backgrounds all over their pages. So did Depot Towner's faces, and the Boston brahmins' embarassment of one's name being in the paper other than for 'birth, marriage, and death notices' fades into our next big district promotion.

Many of the neighborhood's newer activists can't remember before the Heritage Fest changed things and may seem to think this is the way it's always been down here, but meetings and problem solving sessions continue into another project and life goes back to normal in the old block. Part of our normalcy is the ability and need to solve problems and we welcome that opportunity. We'll hustle and disagree and argue, but the show goes on - with the active involvement of those who continue to value active foot traffic in the district. That's what makes it such a lot of fun down here.

Ypsi auto history museum to open

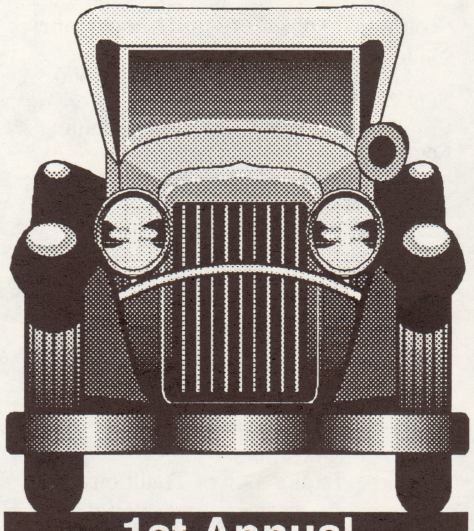
Ever since he was a kid in his dad's car dealership down here, Jack Miller has had the dream of an automotive museum which would reflect Ypsilanti's contribution. Now Miller, Peter Fletcher and Skip Ungrodt have developed the concept to be installed in the property on Cross Street just east of Miller Motors and the collection is growing fast.

Last month they rescued the forty-foot Thompson Dodge Dealership sign that's been sitting in storage for forty years and plan to add it to an exhibit which one day will include Kaiser/Frasers, the Henry J, and rear-engine Corvairs from the Willow Run Plants and maybe even a Tucker automobile.

They're looking for local auto memorabilia to be included and encourage collectors to come down and talk to them. It worked in Cady's decorating theme of high school memories; it ought to work with car stuff, too, they figure.

Miller and Company made what may be the smartest move of their partnership last month when they gave the whole project to the Ypsilanti Historical Society, which operates the City's Historical Museum on North Huron Street. "Now they own it as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization, and we just program it and run it," said Depot Town's Hudson dealer.

History often seems to be our biggest product in this old block. Watch their progress.



1st Annual
Riverside Park Car Show

Sunday, 17 September 1995
10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Trophies • Door Prizes • Dash Plaques

Advance Registration $3.00
Contact Jim Roberts
525 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Blocks earliest antiques dealer in auction biz now

"What's Steve Gross doing now?" is a popular question on this block since he and partner Linda French closed their antiques store three years ago in March. They were the first of the new wave of antiquers to open shop in Depot Town - back in 1973 when they established the Exchange at #29 East Cross, where James MacDonald Antiques & Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing is now.

In 1978 Steve and Linda purchased the building at #54 and a year later bought the Central Bar next door which became the Sidetrack.

Today Steve has moved his home from East to West Side in a historic house on Pleasant Drive and is married to Betsy, the mother of their beautiful daughter, Mollie.

All that family life and business change does not indicate that Gross has gone into any kind of retirement, though.

He still operates two antique businesses out of a warehouse on Ecorse Road: Back in a Minute Antiques is a sign he often posted on his shop door window or at his booth at an antiques fair and it seemed to be a good name for a full-time, but casual, enterprise. His Premiere Auction Services also buys and sells antiques, mostly through estate sales and auctions.

His experience at auctioneers' school convinced him that was what he really wanted to do and Gross puts on a delightful and knowledgeable show at his auction events which average once a month through the fall and winter seasons. Many are held in the Depot Town Freighthouse and are the biggest entertainments to be found on the block on those days.

Due to his long and respected experience in the business, Steve has become one of the most admired antiques appraisers around. Steve can still be reached at 480-1890 and maintains of wealth of stories about Depot Town's turnaround and the great times they had here.

Register now for September programs at EMU's Depot Town Center

- **Food for Thought - Contemporary Issues Series**
  - Sept. 19 — Right-Wing Extremism on the Rise
  - Sept. 26 — The Bell Curve: A Critical Look

- **Seminars, Workshops and Short Courses**
  - Sept. 11 — Organic Gardening and Beyond
  - Sept 13, 20, 27 — Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning
  - Sept. 14 — Dreams and Their Meaning
  - Sept. 21 & 28 — Autumn Gardening
  - Sept. 26 — Sleep Disorders in the Elderly
  - Sept. 18 — Cultural Samplers Series - The Polish Heritage: Customs, Costumes, and Dance
  - Sept. 25 — Cultural Sampler Series - Polish Culture: An Exploration of Traditions

- **Book Talk**
  - Sept. 19 — Book Talk Session One - *The Celestine Prophecy*

- **EMU Dinner Theater**
  - AYU's Final Show: We're Not Leaving!
  - Sept. 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29 & 30

Call EMU's Depot Town Center
for more information at 313-487-6810
or EMU's Continuing Education
at 313-487-0407.

Eyesores' status change

This summer has seen great changes in the physical or legal condition of two of the district's most questionable properties:

The Thompson Block, owned by David Kircher, has been repainted in the same green and white theme as shown for so long on that neglected property and the window sashes have been repaired and painted their original black - all this between 'stop work' orders from the City's Building Department. All-summer sparring with each other on the streets, in the press, and now maybe in court may have at least paid off for the beginning of a rehabiliation program for the building. Charges are still flying, but the furtive paint job is an improvment over when they removed the giant archery targets from the windows at least thirty years ago.

The MCRR depot, owned by Jim and Carol Kovalak, has had its State Equalized Value set at $50,000, indicating a $100,000 true cash value. City Assessor, Carole Clare says, "Had the City lost the appeal it would be a direct loss to TIFA funds for the district."

Observers now wonder about reported offers of under $200,000 for that property and speculate as to whether any of those possible buyers are still interested. The building is a shell, only; without electricity, water, heat or any other services, but it stands as a monument to the railroad industry. Depot Towners have grieved for its appearance for many years, hoping the district's namesake would follow the rehabilitation ethic of the rest of the district.

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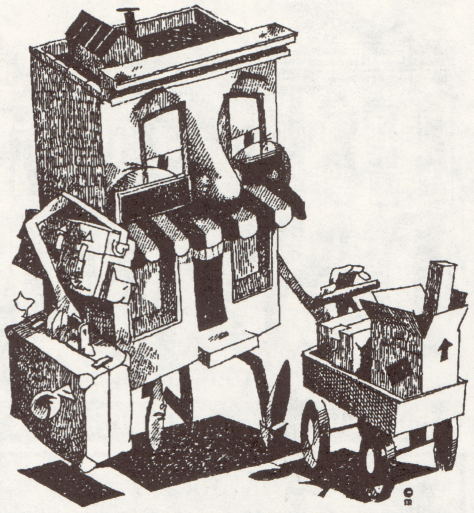

River Artworks to close

After seventeen years of what his advertisements have called "doing art to art," Paul Fetters will close his frame shop at 48 East Cross with the possibility of going on the road for a national frame manufacturer. Paul's many friends, neighbors and customers from those successful years thank him for his constant activism on the block - as DTA president and chair of the DDA for so many years of ups and downs - and wish him the best of luck in his new and expanded work situation.

In addition to the fine craftsmanship the area has come to expect from Paul's River Artworks output, many have taken for granted the continuous dedication and leadership he has brought to this little commercial block. Whether is was scaling the buildings in winter time to install holiday lighting, cleaning up after an event in the Freighthouse, or pounding on the desk of a recalcitrant attorney to explain how the State's laws really worked, Paul gave many of his talents to this block.

Many remember that Paul was the only DTA president to run a meeting with a gavel - sometimes a hammer - and that was in the days when you might need to use the tool as a weapon. Times have changed due, in part, to his leadership and our business is much more civilized and calm at today's monthly episodes.

A special sale of treasurers from RAW's basement has highlighted the August traffic through his shop as his clientele has found exotic frames, ancient posters, matt board fragments still usable, and countless questionable but interesting examples of unclaimed art and artifact.

Stop by this week to wish Paul Fetters good luck in his newest enterprise.

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Dateline: Depot Town

A Neighborhood Forgotten by Time (and Life and Newsweek)

Collectibles, Memorabilia & Imports leads way for Black Baseball history

Marie Moore opened her tiny shop at 18 East Cross earlier this summer and CMI (Collectibles, Memorabilia & Imports) has proved to be both popular and newsworthy. Marie has two uncles who are in the manufacture of memorabilia of African/American baseball players and teams and, even though Marie was never a ball player herself, her Mom still plays softball! These familial interests brought her to Depot Town with sports clothing, jewelry, basball caps, and sports memorabilia related to American Black baseball.

After her shop's opening in July, Marie was visited by family friend Mel Duncan, a former Detroit Tiger who led the protest over the Tigers' summer reunion of black ball players at Tiger Stadium.

Marie may be in business for the first time but, with her family and her enthusiasm behind her, this 1981 Ypsilanti High School graduate is bound to succeed in Depot Town.

Crystal Cards expands to a Saturday at the Market

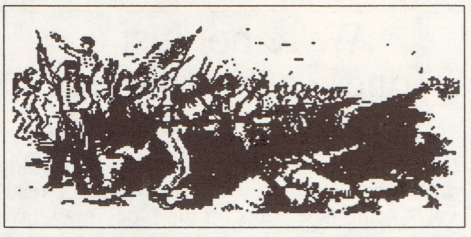
Sandy Matthews celebrates her first year in Depot Town by cooperating with the Farmers' Market Youth Trading Card Day on August 26 with free tabale space to area outh to display their trading card collections. Sandy and the Market encourage kids to trade cards, view each others' collections, and price out cards for future reference.

Sandy's shop offers totally new sports cards, plaques, specialized autographs, and set in a stunning array of memorabia that seems to fit in perfectly in a neighborhood which features, antique furniture, antique cars, vintage clothing, and collectible baseball artifacts.

Designs on You remodels

There's new paint and carpet at Brend Knox' elegant sewing studio at 27 East Cross Street. The whole place was put back together long before Heritage Festival weekend, at which time Brenda introduced a whole new line of boutique items to complement her fine handwork and craftsmanship. The shop's rich, new plum-colored decor is a most delighful update of the interior of one of the district's oldest buildings.

More 'images of the past' from our reader/collectors:



Garden Clubbers disorganized but active.

Preservationists maintain stoicism in victory.

Festival poster brings questions of ownership of orignal post card's design

An August *Ypsilanti Press* article featured the postcard collecting tradition, highlighting this year's Heritage Fest poster which was a reproduction of an early Ypsilanti issue showing landmark buildings within the letters spelling out "Ypsilanti."

The card collecting activity recalled hometown boosterism and friendly rivalry between contemporary collectors who seek to make their collection the most complete and authoritative around. Ypsilantian Dave Davis was quoted as saying, "... Maybe if I outlive everyone, I can get their collections."

Some collectors may not be so patient, however, as Festival organizers found out once the 1995 poster hit the streets.

First indication of conflict was a call from a postcard collector who questioned whether or not the Ypsilanti Festival committee 'owned the rights' to publish their poster. Most folks around here might well think that, if a post card is about their town, they already own it. But such is not the case, especially when there is a possible profit involved.

Knowing full well that the threat of a law suit does not always mean the complainant actually has a case *or* a lawyer, several locals felt they should not change their plan until they see they name on a court docket. More conservative advice suggested they investigate to see if there was any actual ownership of the card's design.

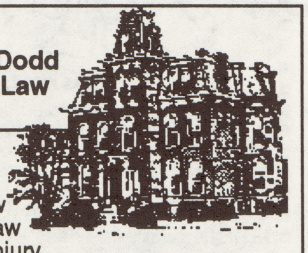
Early video tapes of the district brought the same response from a fan who claimed to own the performance rights for Nineteenth Century music boxes - the same instruments used to provide background themes for the local scenery. More naive folks figured, since they owned the music boxes, they could play them however they wished. They were wrong. They can't be played for profit is somebody else already owns the rights to the original deisgn.

Festival officials checked with a well-respected post card collector's museum in Illinois to see if they truly had rights to the design for their promotion which had been already been printed on posters, T-shirts, and (of course!) post cards.

The museum folks asked them to look for publication and/or design copyright marks on either side of the original post card. There were none -- and they went ahead with their promotional plans.

Meanwhile, promoters who've been eyeing grandma's quilt as a cover design for their book, might well wish to find out if they, grandma, or somebody else owns the design copyright to that product. More enterprising entrepreneurs might want to call a patent attorney and start putting their name on everything they can see that's still in the public domain. Who knows? Somebody may want to use that someday and maybe they'd have to pay you to reproduce it.

Gregory L. Dodd
Attorney at Law



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- Personal Injury
- Probate, Wills, and Trusts

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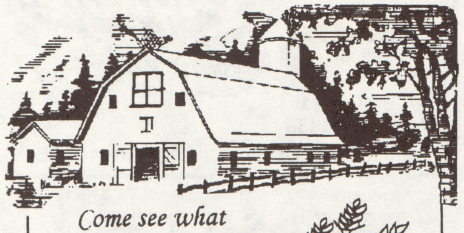

Come see what Nature sent us this month . . .

Ypsi Food Co-op

Sun 12-5; M,T,Th,F 10-8; Wed. 10-9; Sat. 9-8
312 N. RIVER ST. 483-1520

Depot Town Association, Inc.

D.T.A. 27 July 1995

• **Minutes of June** approved as published.

• **Treasury report** approved as reported. The Frog Island Jazz Festival Book brought in ad money to support publication of *The Depot Town Rag*.

• **DDA:** The DDA will be paying for electrical outlets on poles in Depot Town. Dave French will contact Detroit Edison concerning the work. Carolyn McKeever says the banners for poles in Depot Town are under way.

• **Events:** PTB productions is planning performances of Sam Shepard's *True West* at Riverside Arts Center August 18, 19, 20. Depot Town was presented with the opportunity to advertise in the non-profit organization's program. Among the advertisers are Carolyn McKeever, Remington-Walker, Depot Town Travel, Miller's Ice Cream, Renewed Interest Antiques, Sidetrack, and Me 'N' My Sisters. Deadline for advertising is August 3.

• **Concert in the Park!** Great music to be performed Saturday and Sunday, 5 & 6 August. Tickets are $10 for one day; two day pass is $15.

• **Heritage Festival** plans are coming along. The parking issue will be discussed and firmed up at the next Heritage Festival meeting on 2 August.

• **The Depot Town Reunion** plans have begun. Linda French will be interviewed by the local papers concerning the reunion of residents, merchants, volunteers, property/building owners, and patrons. If you would like to be included in Depot Town's 20th reunion, contact Linda French at Sidetrack.

• **The city still has in its plans** to charge Depot Town merchants for the use of the sidewalks in front of their establishments. Dave French will contact merchants concerning upcoming meeting with the city to determine this issue.

New Business:

• **The Caboose** will soon be reverting back to the DTA for its own use. Information on liability insurance from Freeman Bunting is upcoming.

• **EMU is planning to have a homecoming parade** on Saturday, 23 September at 12 noon. The parade is planned to start at River and Cross and end at EMU's campus. Parade is just in the planning stages. More news will be upcoming.

• **Kiosk update** tabled until August meeting.

• **DTA voted to buy paint** in order to repaint planters in the walkway.

• **Dave French brought in a picture of the railroad garden** that was once located on E. Cross. Further discussion concerning the garden will be tabled until August meeting. In connection with the railroad garden, there is talk about the possibility of an Ypsilanti Garden Club. Keep ears open for further details.

• **The Depot Town brochure,** actually two of them, were presented to the association for approval. Cost analysis for printing will be presented at August meeting.

• **Next meeting** to be held 10 August 1995 at 6 P.M. at Renewed Interest Antiques.

• **Best Yet Award** goes to the Hoags for their work in weeding and sprucing up the Signal Tower gardens.

• **The Golden Goose** awarded to the city once again for the $35.00 sidewalk fee.

D.T.A. 10 August 1995

• **Minutes of July** approved as published

• **A letter from Karen Brenner** of Winding River Originals read. She announced that she will be moving out of Depot Town at the end of 1995.

• **Treasury report** - no new news or transactions to report since 27 Juy.

• **DDA:** A representative of Detroit Edison is due to come inspect the poles to be electrified and report back to the DDA.

Unfinished business:

• **Bylaws** tabled until September meeting.

• **Caboose:** No information yet on liability insurance from Freeman Bunting. Ypsilanti police plan to continue use of the caboose for mini-station. Councilman Terry MacDonald reports tht the City has meet on the issue of replacing some vacancies on the police force. One vacancy to be filled is the officer assigned to Depot Town mini-station. More news will be forthcoming.

• **Brochure:** Members of the DTA looked at the two proposed brochures and printing costs. The brochure chosen has more general information which will stay up-to-date rather than list businesses specifically. A committee to fine-tune the brochure is to report back next month. Any ideas should be forwarded to Gwen Blackmer, Carolyn McKeever, or Pam Hamblin.

• **Heritage Festival:** The biggest news involved the City revoking the $35.00 sidewalk fee. Access passes for parking are available to anyone who has their own lot or designated parking spot and does not have to cross Cross Street to get to that spot. Access passes are available at Renewed Interest Antiques.

• **Depot Garden:** Tabled until September.

• **Kiosk signs:** The sign is to be updated to include the new businesses.

New business:

• **Announcements of nominees** of Depot Town officers. The nominees are as follows: President-elect: Gary McKeever and Richard Reid, Secretary: Judy Julie, Treasurer: Gwen Blackmer and Carole Clare.

• **Announcements:** Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce announces a "Job Shadowing" program for junior and senior students of Ypsilanti in conjunction with the local area high schools. Any area merchant who is interested in having a student spend 40 hours with them learning the ins and outs of their business or requires additional information is instructed to call Donna Shublein, Garth Mussey, or Aimee at (313) 482-4920.

• **Next meeting** to be held 21 September 1995 at 6 p.m. at Renewed Interest Antiques.

• **Best Yet Award** is shared by the City for revoking the $35.00 sidewalk fee and Paul Fetters of River Artworks. Paul has been an integral part of Depot Town not only as merchant, but also holding officers in both the DTA and DDA. Our best wishes to Paul in his new endeavor.

• **Golden Goose Award** has been suspended this month in the interest of good will.

[**July's minutes** appear in this issue due to a late meeting that month. Look for monthly reports from now on. -ed.]

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc. a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate. -Tom Dodd, editor

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
Tom Steele, president
P.O. Box 970-235
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-0804

The Depot Town Rag
Tom Dodd, editor
1680 Cliffs Landing
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198-7305

Is protective Interlaken 'ghost' needed here?

There's a legend in the Swiss town of Interlaken (the one the National Music Camp - near Traverse City is nearly-named for) that says the fog that comes down the mountain every evening is really a benevolent ghost that "watches over the town and makes sure that nothing happens."

Along about mid-August of each summer, some folks down by Ypsilanti's depot wish they had the same sort of kindly insulation but that feeling quickly passes. Twenty years ago, August was a terribly quiet time down here and not much happened; no parades, no exhibitions, no crowds, no music, no nothin'. In those days we seemed ashamed that our buildings were so old and figured we couldn't even afford to cover them with shiny alumnium panels to pretend we were modern. Any ghosts that resided in this block were terribly low key and not too interested in district promotion.

That all changed with the concept of an annual festival to celebrate 'heritage' and, even though we sometimes tire of the hype, it's a lot better than it would be if we were haunted and "nothing was happening."

Times have changed. After a period of decline that paralleled the railroad's, Ypsilanti and its depot district began focussing most of its promotions on the Yesterfester Weekend. Now that the Festival, itself, has become part of the local history, many use that weekend to focus on the fact that there's a lot going on down here all year 'round. This month's front page blatantly promotes the next coming events on the block...

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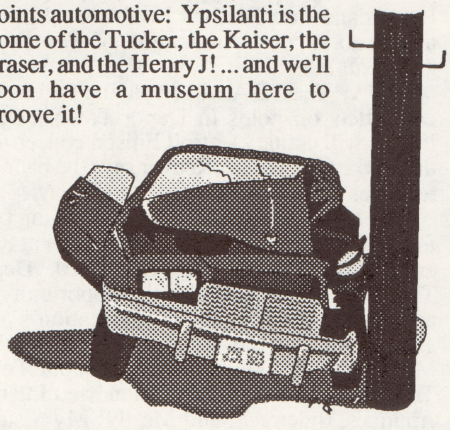
STANDARD PRINTING
Welcome Back All Ypsilanti Area Students
35 E. Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan
(313) 483-0339

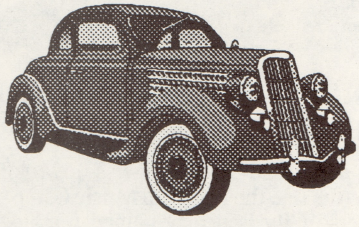
Depot Town is really 'Little Motown' if you're a regular

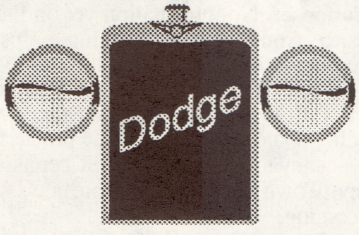
Depot Towners just love cars. Maybe it's because we're really Motor City Kids, at heart and long for the days when Real Cars had lots of shiny chrome and fins so big they looked like a pair of salmon swimming upstream to spawn. Every time there's a big parade in town, Jack Miller and Tom Conway and all their car club affiliates bring out their beauties and glide them down the center of the parade route in dignified procession -- and the crowd goes wild. Some folks say the best thing about getting elected Mayor in this town is the fact that you'll be able to ride in one of these bits of history on the Fourth of July.

Conway's Truck & Auto Museum in the old fire hall and Miller's 'Last Hudson Dealership in the Western Hemisphere' aren't the only car clubs on the block, either. There's a whole bunch of auto aficianados who will even show up in front of City Body Carstar's offices when someone pulls up for an estimate. "Oooh! That's too bad. How'd that happen, huh?" And everybody gets into the act. We love cars down here.

Hello, Flint, Pontiac, Lansing, South Bend, Kenosha, and all points automotive: Ypsilanti is the home of the Tucker, the Kaiser, the Fraser, and the Henry J! ... and we'll soon have a museum here to proove it!

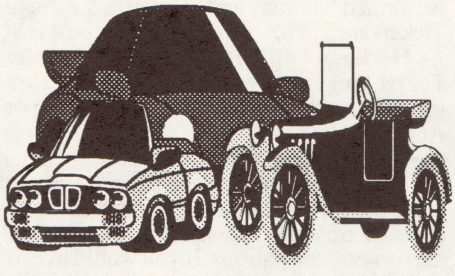


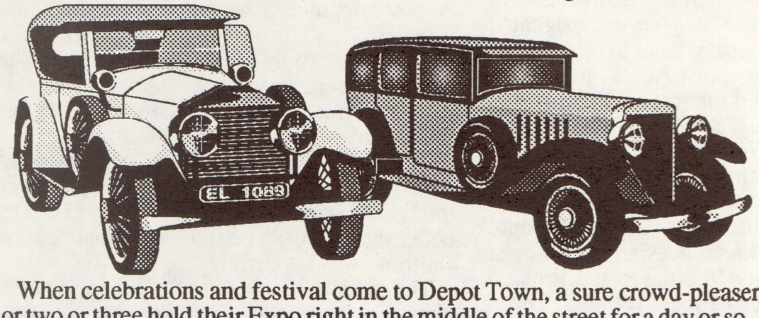




Loren Hansen is another kid from the block who grew up in the parents' business at Standard Printing. Now Loren's grandkids are growing up in the print shop and their favorite break in babysitting is when Loren takes them for a ride is his fully-restored Hudson business coupe. Who can remember when salesmen had this unique model auto specially built to carry sample cases in the long, long trunk? It was even long enough to convert into sleeping quarters in the days before Holiday Inns.

Jack Miller is the kid who grew up in his dad's garage -- formerly a Dodge Dealership that had moved across the street from the Thompson Block, later to become a Willys/Overland dealership. Today, Jack is past president of the national Hudson/Essex/Terraplane Motorcor Clukb and editor of their montly slicker, *The White Triangle News*. He can tell you about every car extant from that period and he usually knows the people who still own them or are looking for one. He's an automotive *yenta*.



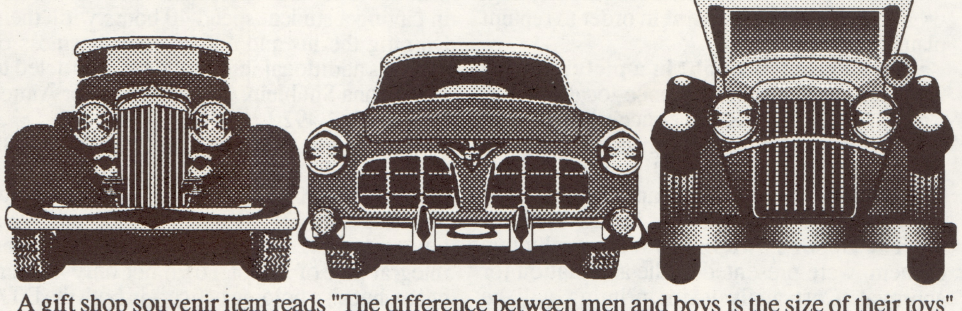


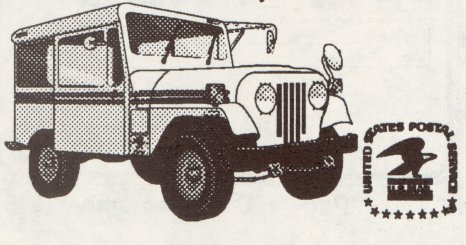
East Cross Street gets its share of Goofy Cars, as well, sometimes in the form of a collectors' or customizers' organization, sometimes it's just one classy-but-strange, one-of-a-kind models that someone wants to photograph in a typical American mid-western setting. This is the crowd that brings their poodle skirts, doo-wop haircuts, and cameras when they cruise Kluck's Drive Inn on Michigan Avenue or the Chick Inn Prospect. It's as close to James Dean and you can get any more.

General Motors filmed one of their gorgeous "Heartbeat of America" commercials here a few years ago and we were able to see Ike Rednour giving haircuts on national television. But it didn't seem any more or less real for the exposé. Depot Towners still behave like Depot Towners.

When celebrations and festival come to Depot Town, a sure crowd-pleaser is to have a car club or two or three hold their Expo right in the middle of the street for a day or so. Depot Towners then size them up at a distance and begin to show off their expertise. We like to try to name the make, model, and year of manufacture from a block away, before the younger generation can read the chromed nameplates. "Gee,. Dad! How'd you know that?" Kids today are so used to wind-tunnel-designed look-alikes that they can't image the double-ended Studebaker being the butt of Bob Hope's radio jokes for a full four months of weekly programs. Weekly radio programs? They can't even imagine that either, can they?

There's a regular phalanx of workhouse variety transportation on the block, too. When the fire departments race through, we like to marvel at the big, colorful equipment. Ypsilanti's Finest park their patrol cars and the Yellow Bird in Ninde Street when they come down for ice cream at Miller's and then there's the letter carrier. Seems like thirty-two cents is a pretty good deal, after all, when you get that kind of door-to-door service, doesn't it? Where's Norman Rockwall when you need him?





A gift shop souvenir item reads "The difference between men and boys is the size of their toys" and Depot Towners have to buy that generalization, we suppose. But this neighborhood seems to have a lot of women who are just as easily hooked on styles and artifacts from earlier eras. Whether it's antique furniture, vintage clothing, Victorian decor and accessories, or just old fashioned amenities like good food, good service, and a good time, Depot Town seems to retain the pleasant ambiance of another time without having to hire a public relations firm to create an image. Somehow, this block's image just keeps on keepin' on. Maybe we're on to something that the outlying shopping centers could use. Should we tell them? Naah. They're too busy having a cellular phone and computer convention this week.

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A Depot Town SAMPLER

We're not just a one-weekend-a-year kind of neighborhood

"What's a nice neighborhood like this doing with a big and blowsey end-of-summer festival?" some new folks on the block may have been asking since the Yesterfesters hit the east end of the Cross Street Bridge in search of all things historical. The blind enthusiasm of large crowds can give the mistaken impression that these quaint shopkeepers down by the depot in Ypsi just trot out their wares for One Big Blast to celebrate the middle of the sidewalk café season and then curl up next to their Winnebagos in Key West until the next tourist onslaught a year hence. Not-too-careful inspection can cause the casual tourist to compare this old commercial district to island fudge shops and rubber-tired tour-train districts. Not so. That ain't us.

Here's a quick glimpse of what goes on here between now and next year's ebullient Yestertfester invasion:

- The First Annual Riverside Park Car Show on Sunday, 17 September.
- Farmers' Market in the historic Freighthouse every Wednesday and Saturday all year long.
- The Fall Fair at the Market and throughout the distirict.
- A giantic Hallowe'en party for all ages.
- Festival of Lights in Riverside Park from Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve.
- Depot Town's annual Victorian Holiday of open houses, special sales, quaint costumes, and even a visit from St. Nicholas.
- The New Year's Eve Jubilee in Depot Town, downtown, and in the parks.
- The Frog Island Music Festival in June.
- Concerts in the park and parades in the streets every time the weather and a special occasion permit.

Perhaps the thing that makes Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town unique is the fact that the history it celebrates isn't some contrived and specialized theme park - nor is it based on an isolated and much touted single ancient event. The kind of history celebrated around these old buildings is the kind of history we're making right now. Following a tradition of trading since before the establishment of the Michigan Territory, this block preceded the coming of the railroad, but carried its acitivity on through the ages of the airplane, space travel, and the Interstate highway system.

With their roots in a historical tradition, the actual activity of these entrepreneurs echoes an ethic that is worth celebrating with some kind of a festival every day.

"*These* are the 'good old days'" one tot was heard whispering to her sister one Saturday morning by the pot-bellied stove in the Freighthouse. And they were right! And Depot Towners are always ready to celebrate that fact.

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